



PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

Sharon Drevitch Dondes
Director of Communications
410-685-8300
sharond@ffee.org

Fund for Educational Excellence Elects Five New Board Members

Baltimore...At its September Board meeting, the Fund for Educational Excellence Board of Directors elected five new members to serve a three-year term.

Jim Mathias, Chair of the Board, said, “We are excited to welcome these dedicated, thoughtful new members to our Board. They represent a cross-section of our community, and they share our commitment to educational excellence for all students in the Baltimore City Public Schools. We look forward to putting their unique perspectives, talent, and expertise to work for Baltimore’s students.”

The new members are:

- **Bonnie S. Copeland, Ph.D.**, Vice President, Education Policy for Laureate Education, Inc.; former Baltimore City Public Schools CEO; and member of the CollegeBound Foundation Board of Directors
- **Penny Lewis**, Senior Team Manager for Bank of America – Timonium; and Team Bank of America Volunteer President
- **Dana Petersen Moore**, Of Counsel, Venable LLP; Interim Chair of the Baltimore City Board of Ethics; and Board Chair of The Leadership program of the Greater Baltimore Committee
- **Paula Singer, Ph.D.**, President, the Singer Group; Associate Faculty, Johns Hopkins University, Carey School of Business; and National Faculty, Nova Southeastern University
- **James D. Thornton**, Principal, Thorwood Real Estate Group, LLC; former Senior Executive Vice President of MBNA Bank; and member, Baltimore Museum of Arts Board of Directors

Lisa M. Wright, Fund President and CEO, added, “With improving scores and increased graduation rates, Baltimore City has much to celebrate. These gains underscore how well positioned we are to realize what’s possible for every student in our public schools.”

The Fund for Educational Excellence is a 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to attract critical resources and support their effective implementation to achieve educational excellence for all students in the City Schools. For over 25 years, the Fund has enjoyed a successful partnership with the Baltimore City Public Schools. Its efforts have played a significant role in the growth of Baltimore’s public schools from providing high impact professional development, to supporting secondary school reform and new school creation. Today, Baltimore’s attendance and graduation rates are the highest in 10 years, drop out rates are the lowest since Maryland began reporting, and test scores in elementary and middle grades are up significantly. As Baltimore’s only local education fund and most experienced educational intermediary, the Fund contributes to this success by focusing on three high impact areas: fostering sustainable reform; developing human capital; and engaging community to be part of the solution.